



BASARA™

Story and Art by **Yumi Tamura**

Vol.20



shōjo

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Yumi Tamura

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Vol. #20

Shôjo Edition

Story and Art by

Yumi Tamura

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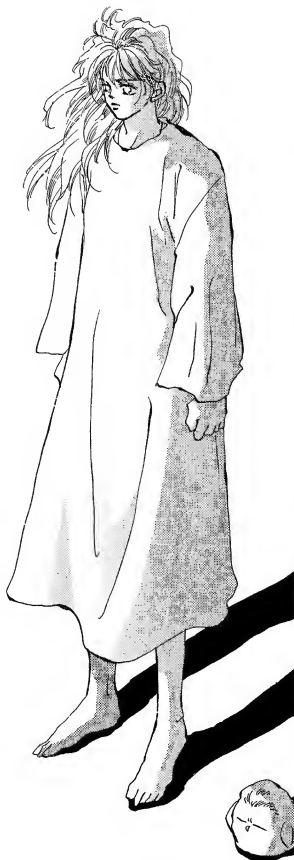
PARENTAL ADVISORY
BASARA is rated T+ for Older Teen
and is recommended for ages 16 and
up. Contains realistic violence.



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After a global apocalypse, Japan passed into the hands of tyrannical kings. At the birth of a rebel chieftain's twins, the blind prophet Nagi predicted, "This is a child of destiny, one who will grow to lead the people and be the light in the sky of our nation's future." But Tatara, the "Boy of Destiny," was killed by the Red King, one of the four sons of King Ukon XV. Tatara's twin sister, Sarasa, took up his name and his mission, vowing to lead Japan to freedom and peace.

Sarasa has defeated the Red King in Kyushu and the Blue King in Seiran, gaining many allies along the way. She has also proven herself in Okinawa to the south and Tohoku in the north. Her closest comrades now know her true identity, which has only inspired them to greater loyalty.

During her travels, however, Sarasa fell in love with a young man named Shuri, not knowing that he was the Red King. On the battlefield, the two finally learned one another's identities. Shuri attempted suicide, only to be "rescued" by his scheming brother Asagi, who sold him into slavery. Sarasa abandoned her army and wandered Japan in a semi-fugue state. She finally came to her senses after being reunited with her mother in Tohoku.

Now Sarasa has resumed her quest to liberate Japan. She has found a new ally in Lady Purple, the wife of the Black King. With Lady Purple's help, she brings the rebellion to Kyoto, the capital of Japan and the seat of King Ukon's power. Meanwhile, the desert nomad Ageha prepares to destroy one of King Ukon's top officials...



Chigusa

Sarasa's mother. Captured after Tatara's death, she was rescued by General Kazan, one of the Red King's advisors. She grew to respect Kazan and stood as his second in his ritual suicide. Now she is the "Nightingale," a mysterious figure who appears on battlefields to aid the wounded on both sides.



Kikune

One of the deadly spies known as the "Four Virtues," Kikune grew close to Sarasa while on a mission in the North for the White King. She is a brilliant inventor, skilled at creating both whimsical toys and deadly weapons.



Hayato

Hayato first met Sarasa while *both* of them were posing as Tatara. He joined Sarasa's forces and now sometimes impersonates Tatara to draw attention away from the "real" Tatara. He is a descendent of the great Suzaku leader Rasho.



Nagi

Extremely wise, Nagi is the blind prophet who declared Sarasa the "Child of Destiny." Also a priest, doctor and teacher, Nagi educated the young Sarasa and continues to aid and advise her.



Chacha

A strong leader and fighter, she was once a pirate chief but is now one of Tatara's generals. Captain of the rebel flagship, she has mustered Tatara's forces in Sakurajima.



Hijiri

Learned in *batto-jutsu*—the art of the sword—he's the leader of the Tengu Faction, a somewhat radical group of young Hongu monks in Kumano that has chosen to aid Sarasa.



Nakijin

Serious, kind and skilled in karate, he is one of Doctor Basho's pupils and a longtime friend of Yuna's. He has followed Shuri from Okinawa and become one of his "Council of Four."



Sakaki

An up-and-coming advisor to the Red King before the coup, he toiled faithfully on Suo City's aqueduct while waiting for his King's promised return. He is now one of Shuri's "Council of Four."

Sarasa

When Sarasa and her twin brother Tataru were born, a prophecy was made: "This is a child of destiny..." The people of Byakko Village assumed Tataru was the "Boy of Destiny," and Sarasa grew up in his shadow. When the Red King's forces killed Tataru, Sarasa took up her brother's name and fought in his guise, not realizing that she was the real Child of Destiny. Sarasa was horrified by the discovery that her lover, Shuri, was also her most hated enemy, the Red King.



The Red King

Once in charge of Midwestern Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu, he is the youngest of King Ukon's four sons. Only a privileged few call him by his name, Shuri. As the Red King, he was a ruthless but effective ruler. After being ousted from his throne, he rebuilt his power under the title "the Red Tiger." Destroying the rebel leader Tataru was one of his obsessions, and the discovery that Tataru was really Sarasa devastated him. Asagi saved him from suicide, only to torture him and sell him into slavery.



Ageha

Capable of staying the hand of a King and arranging for 1,000 head of cattle on short notice, this mysterious desert nomad seems to be extremely informed and influential. Ageha lost his left eye when the Red King blinded it as payment for rescuing the 12-year-old Sarasa. Now he is "Sarasa's" slightly mercenary ally. Ageha uses his owl companion, Kagero, to carry messages to his contacts.



Taro

A scribe from Kyoto, he is one of Ageha's many contacts across Japan. He is writing a chronicle of the current war and believes that the age of tyrant kings is ending. Although he claims to be an impartial journalist and scholar, Sarasa has attracted his interest.

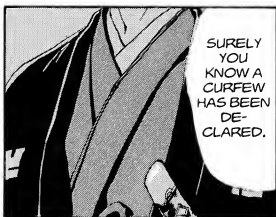


Asagi

Asagi is the Blue King, son of King Ukon and brother of Shuri, but for most of his life he posed as a bodyguard to the false Blue King. His pale skin and refined demeanor belie his ruthlessness and deadly skills. He is allied with Sarasa, but he helps the rebels only out of personal curiosity and to further his own goals.

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COPPER TALE 1: PATH

IN
KYOTO
BLOOD
RAINS
FROM
ON
HIGH.





TATARA,
DID
YOU
KNOW...

...PEOPLE
ARE
KILLED
JUST FOR
WALKING
ABOUT AT
NIGHT?

...IN
KYOTO...



"IN KYOTO
BLOOD
RAINS
FROM ON
HIGH..."

THAT SONG'S
BEEN
CIRCULATING
AROUND THE
CITY.

TINY TAM-TAM TIME ①

Hello! I've finally reached 20 volumes.
I can't believe it!! (My previous
serial only went up to 8 volumes.)
This wouldn't have been possible
without your support.
Thank you so much!
And it's not over yet!

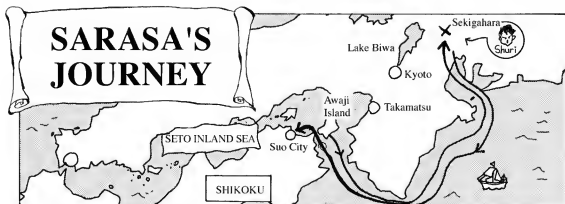


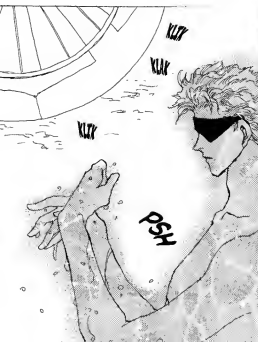
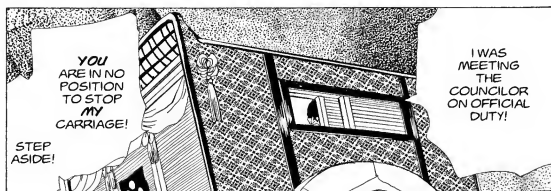
HOW
ARE
YOU?

I wanted to have lots of blue on this
cover. And yellow.
Yellow is the color King Ukon uses.
It's the middle of the visible spectrum! ...

DAU.

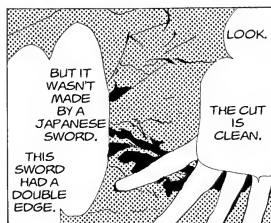
SARASA'S JOURNEY





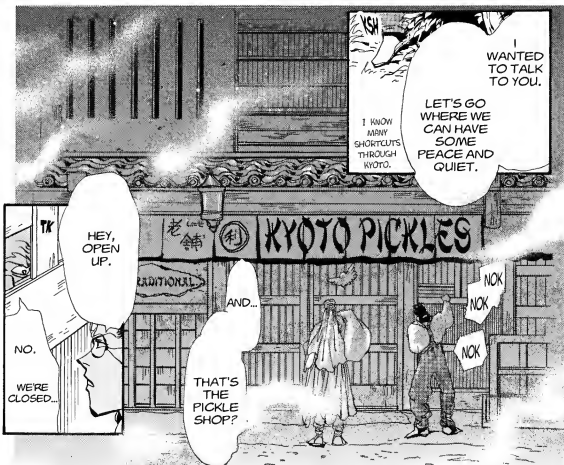
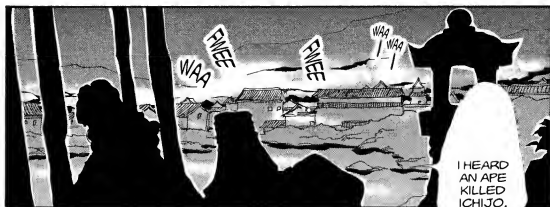


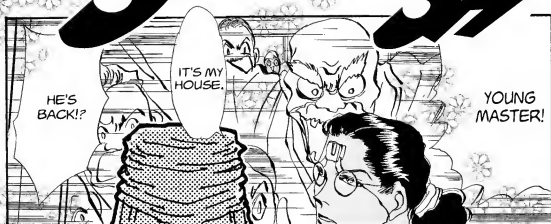














DON'T
THINK
SO.

NO.

PLASH

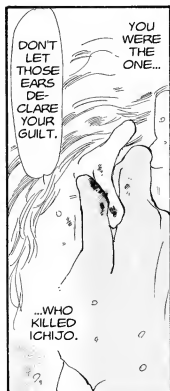
DOES
YOUR
FAMILY
KNOW...

ABOUT
THE
NEWS-
PAPER?

IT'S
BETTER
THEY
NOT
KNOW.

SPSH

SPSH



YOU
WERE
THE
ONE...





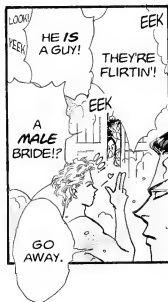
...BUT
AS AN
ASSASSIN.

YOU WILL
BE KNOWN
NOT AS A
HERO...

...NOR AS A
REVOLUTIONARY...



SPLASH!



LOOK!
EEK

HE IS
A GUY!

THEY'RE
FLIRTIN'!

EEK

A
MALE
BRIDE!?

GO
AWAY.



YOU LOOK
TOO HAPPY
FOR ME TO
MEDDLE.

GLOM



FEH.

NEVER
MIND.



COUNCILOR HAGIWARA
OF THE SOUTH

THE
COUNCILOR'S
UP TO
SOMETHING.

HE'S BEEN
CALLIN' HIS
AIDES TO
SECRET
MEETINGS.

SO.
I HEAR
TATARA'S
BEEN
ADVANCING
STEADILY.

PROJECT
POME-
GRANATE.
THIS WILL
SERVE...

...TO PLUNGE
TATARA'S
ARMY INTO A
LAKE OF
BLOOD.

LET
THEM
COME.

THEY'RE
USED TO
THE
DESERT.

WE'LL
BE
READY
FOR
THEM.

WILL THEY
SOON COME
TO KYOTO?



A
PLOT TO
WIPE OUT
TATARA'S
ARMY!

I WONDER
HOW IT'LL
TASTE?

AN
OUT-OF-
SEASON
POME-
GRANATE.



IS NO
LONGER AN
ISSUE.

WELL,
ICHIJO...

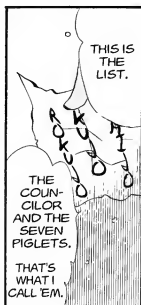


NO
MODERATES
OR OLD
LOYALISTS.
I DON'T LIKE IT.



WHAT A
LINEUP.

ALL
CONSER-
VATIVE
EXTREMISTS.



THIS IS
THE
LIST.

THE
COUN-
CILOR
AND THE
SEVEN
PIGLETS.

THAT'S
WHAT I
CALL 'EM.

IT'S
WEST OF
LAKE
BIWA.

LAKE
BIWA

KYOTO

MT.
HO-
RAI?

WHERE?

I'LL
EXPOSE
THIS
PROJECT
POME-
GRANATE.

...TO FIX
THE WALL
AROUND
THE CITY.

THEY'VE
BEEN
BRINGIN'
IN LOTS
OF
LABOR...

TO
START,
I'LL GO
TO MT.
HORAI.

...SOME OF
'EM HAVE
GONE
MISSING.

BUT...

SEEMS
THEY'RE
BEING...

...MADE
TO WORK
AROUND
MT.
HORAI.

IT'S ALL
HUSH-
HUSH.





VERTICAL TAM-TAM TIME:①



Profile on Taro:①

He's a journalist (started as a hobby). He runs the newspaper.



His birthday is Feb. 11. He's an Aquarius, blood type O.

He was born in Kyoto. We've recently discovered that he's the son of a well-established pickle dealer. He has friends all over the country whom he can visit at a moment's notice, so he travels constantly. One of my previous editors bet that he would be popular with the ladies. Maybe. He's a little older than Ageha.

(In Kyoto, asking if one would like "green tea over rice" is a polite way of saying, "you've overstayed your welcome.")

Taru

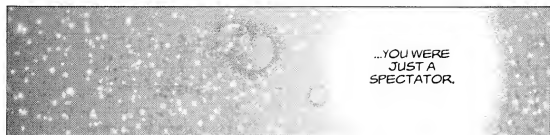




...UP TO
NOW...



THE WAY
YOU WERE
BEFORE...



...YOU WERE
JUST A
SPECTATOR.



YOU REFUSE
TO BE
STALLED.

THIS IS THE WAY
IT MUST BE. YOU
CAN'T STOP
YOURSELF.



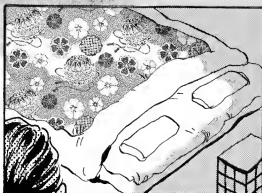
BUT A
VOICE
INSIDE...

...TELLS
YOU TO
KEEP
GOING.



YOU
KNOW
THE
RISKS...

...OF
STEPPING
INTO THE
ACTION.







SUCH A
QUIET
NIGHT.

THERE
WILL
NEVER BE
ANOTHER
LIKE THIS.

WIND
BLOWS...

LET IT
BLOW
GENTLY...

...UNTIL IT
REACHES
PEOPLE.

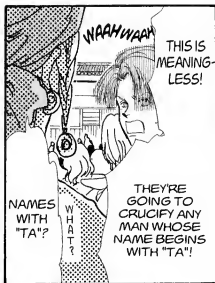
...AS IT
SWIRLS
AROUND
THEM.







"TA" FOR
"TATARA"!



WAAH WAAH

THIS IS
MEANINGLESS!

THEY'RE
GOING TO
CRUCIFY ANY
MAN WHOSE
NAME BEGINS
WITH "TA"!

NAMES
WITH
"TA"?

WHAT?



HOW CRUEL!

WAAH
WAAH

JIRO!

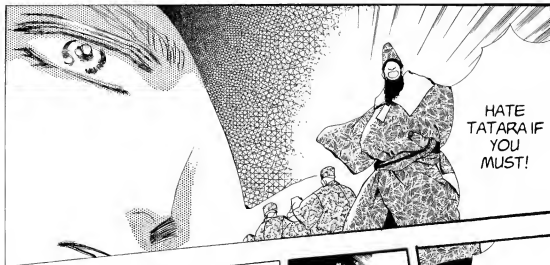
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

OH!

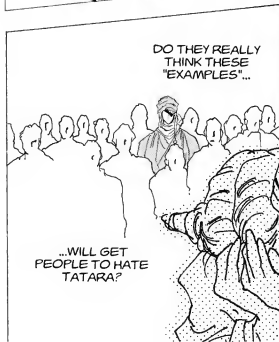
AGEHA! NO!

STOP!

NO!



HATE
TATARA IF
YOU
MUST!



DO THEY REALLY
THINK THESE
"EXAMPLES"...

...WILL GET
PEOPLE TO HATE
TATARA?



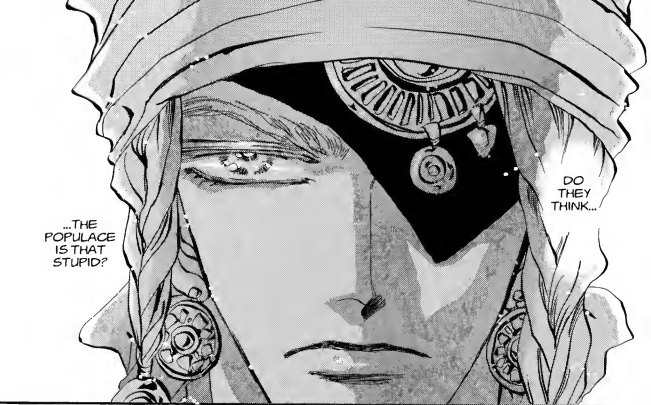
LORD
SANJO!

TAKE A
COUPLE
MORE
MEN!

SANDO

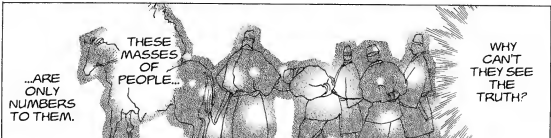
HE WAS
ON THE
LIST.

YES,
LORD
SANJO!



...THE
POPULACE
IS THAT
STUPID?

DO
THEY
THINK...



...ARE
ONLY
NUMBERS
TO THEM.

THESE
MASSES
OF
PEOPLE...

WHY
CAN'T
THEY SEE
THE
TRUTH?



BUT THEY
ARE ALL
INDIVIDUALS.



WHY
WON'T
THEY
SEE?



EACH
WITH HIS
OWN
LIFE.



THIS
IS WHY
YOU
SHOULDN'T
BE OUT AT
NIGHT.



DON'T
LET IT
GET
AWAY!

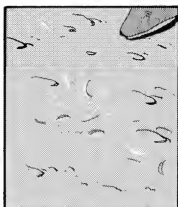
CAPTURE
IT!

AFTER
IT!



IT GOT
LORD
SANJO!

THE
APE!







...FOR
YOU TO
TAKE
TO THE
STAGE.

THIS
WASN'T
THE WAY I
WANTED...



I'LL
IMMORTALIZE
YOUR DEEDS
FOR ALL
POSTERITY!

GO IF
YOU
MUST!

BUT IT'S
NOT FOR
ME TO
CHOOSE.



...IS THE ONE
THEY CHOSE
FOR
THEMSELVES!

THE ONLY
PATH
PEOPLE
CAN
TAKE...





STAY
UNDER
THE OPEN
SKY,
TATARA!



GET
BACK!

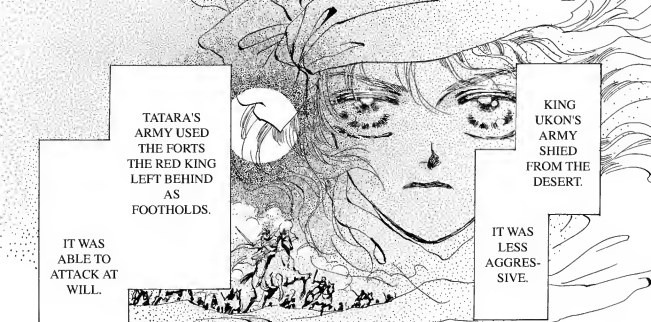
THEY'RE
PLANNING
TO SPLIT
US INTO
TWO
FLANKS!

DON'T
PURSUE
THEM
TOO
FAR!

THEY
ADVANCED,
GAINING
MOMENTUM AT
EVERY STEP.



TATARA'S
FORCES
HEADED
EAST.

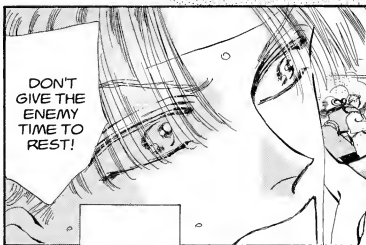


TATARA'S
ARMY USED
THE FORTS
THE RED KING
LEFT BEHIND
AS
FOOTHOLDS.

IT WAS
ABLE TO
ATTACK AT
WILL.

KING
UKON'S
ARMY
SHIED
FROM THE
DESERT.

IT WAS
LESS
AGGRES-
SIVE.



DON'T
GIVE THE
ENEMY
TIME TO
REST!

KEEP
ATTACK-
ING!

DON'T
EASE
UP!

...WAS,
OF ALL
PEOPLE,
ASAGI.

THE ONE WHO
CONTRIBUTED
MOST IN
TERMS OF
TACTICS...



SEE?

I WAS
RIGHT.

YUP.

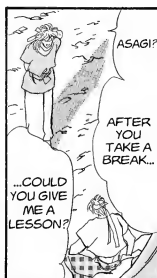
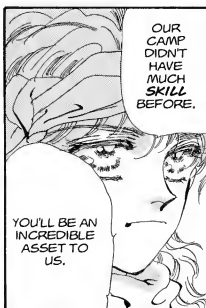
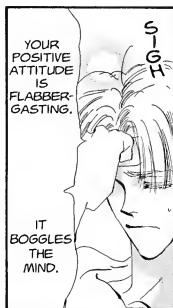


THANKS
FOR YOUR
HARD
WORK.



ARGH

WHEW!







ABSURD!
I'M
NOTHING
LIKE YOU!

ARE YOU
SAYING I
GREW UP
FEELING
JEALOUS OF
SHURI!?



YOU
MIGHT
GET
MADDER...

...BUT CAN
I SAY ONE
MORE
THING?

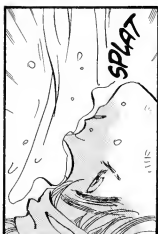
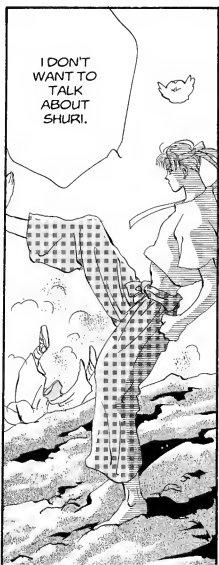
I'M
SOR-
RY...

OW.

I **HATE**
THAT
ABOUT
YOU!

SO
SELF-
CENT-
ERED!

YOU
TALK AS IF
YOU KNOW
EVERY-
THING!





DON'T
BE
STUPID!

AND
LET'S
ARGUE
MORE,
TOO!

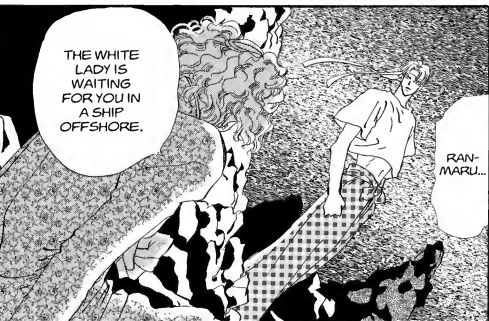
THANKS!

ASAGI!

LET'S
TALK
MORE!

SEEMS
LIKE A
HARD
WAY TO
LIVE.

HE'S SO
WARPED.



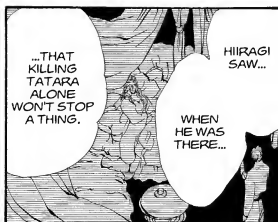
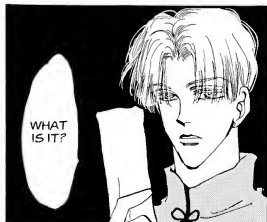
THE WHITE
LADY IS
WAITING
FOR YOU IN
A SHIP
OFFSHORE.

RAN-
MARU...



LORD
ASAGI.







I SHALL
TALK TO
FATHER...

AND
PERSUADE
HIM TO
SURRENDER
THE CASTLE
WITHOUT
RESISTANCE.

SO WE'LL
FORM A
SECRET
ALLIANCE
WITH
TATARA.



I LOVE
KYOTO SO
VERY MUCH,
YOU SEE.

I DON'T
WANT TO
SEE IT
DESTROYED
IN WAR.



WE CAN
UNDERSTAND
EACH OTHER'S
DISTASTE FOR
BATTLES AND
BLOODSHED.

WE'RE YES.
BOTH WOMEN.

SUR-
RENDER
...



YOU
MEAN
THIS?



MY DEAR,
SWEET
ASAGI.

HO

HO

OH,
COME.



OF
COURSE IT'S
ALL A LIE.
I'M ONLY
SAYING THIS...

...TO LURE
TATARA'S
ARMY TO
KYOTO, SO WE
CAN KILL THEM
ALL.



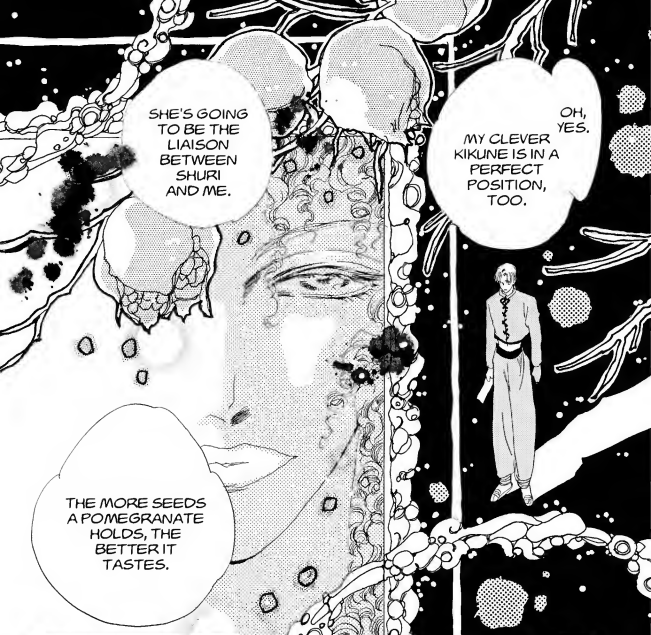
THAT'S
WHY
YOU'RE
HERE.

THIS IS
WHERE
YOU
COME
INTO
PLAY...
ASAGI.



...AND MAKE
TATARA
TRUST ME,
WON'T YOU?

YOU'LL ACT
AS AN
INTERMEDIARY...



SHE'S GOING
TO BE THE
LIAISON
BETWEEN
SHURI
AND ME.

OH,
YES.
MY CLEVER
KIKUNE IS IN A
PERFECT
POSITION,
TOO.

THE MORE SEEDS
A POMEGRANATE
HOLDS, THE
BETTER IT
TASTES.



YOU'LL
TAKE
CARE
OF THIS,
WON'T
YOU?

MY
DEAR
BLUE
KING.

YOU
DON'T
NEED
TO
KNOW.



A
WHAT?

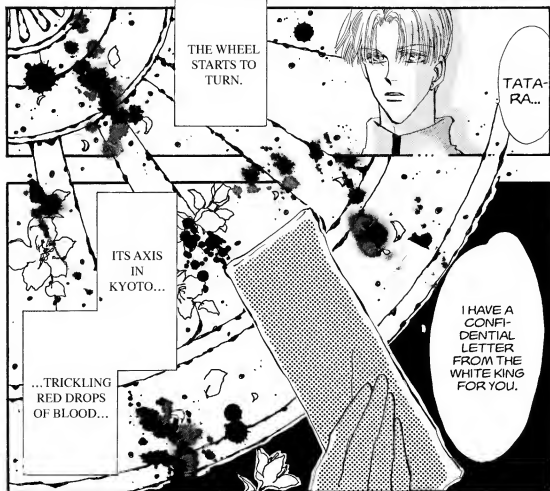




NOT
THERE.

NOT IN
TSUYAMA.

DEFEAT
ISN'T AN
OPTION.



THE WHEEL
STARTS TO
TURN.

TATA-
RA...

ITS AXIS
IN
KYOTO...

...TRICKLING
RED DROPS
OF BLOOD...

I HAVE A
CONFIDENTIAL
LETTER
FROM THE
WHITE KING
FOR YOU.



COPPER TALE 2: DANCING ON EGGS

TSUYAMA GORGE...





YOU'RE
KIDDING
ME.

...THIS
SHEER
CLIFF ON
HORSE-
BACK?

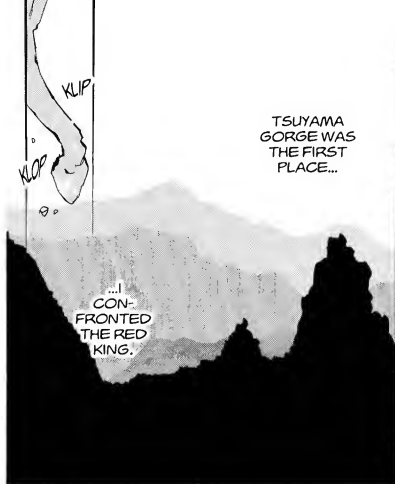
SHE
WANTS
ME TO GO
DOWN...



TATARA...

SHE'S
TESTING
ME.





TINY TAM-TAM TIME ②

Travel Log ①

I took another trip to Kyoto the other day, because the Kyoto Imperial Palace was opened to the public.

They did a demonstration of the traditional game *kemari*.



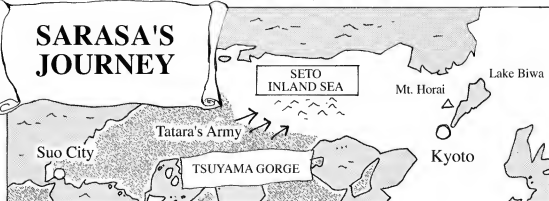
I went on a night-time bus tour, too. I saw Heian court music and dance at Shimogamo Shrine. I saw a reenactment of the *kyō* courtesan procession.

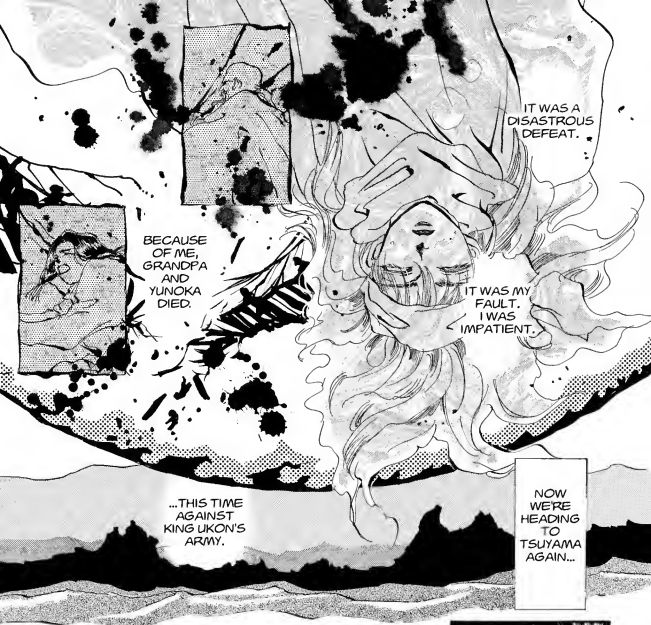
I went to Koryu Temple, Ryuan Temple, and Mibu Temple...

I was so happy! ♥

7/25/00

SARASA'S JOURNEY





IT WAS A
DISASTROUS
DEFEAT.

BECAUSE
OF ME,
GRANDPA
AND
YUNOKA
DIED.

IT WAS MY
FAULT.
I WAS
IMPATIENT.

...THIS TIME
AGAINST
KING UKON'S
ARMY.

NOW
WE'RE
HEADING
TO
TSUYAMA
AGAIN...



I
CAN'T
LOSE.

NOT
THIS
TIME.





THEY'VE SET
UP THEIR MAIN
CAMP IN
KANBA.

AS
EXPECT-
ED...

I KNOW MY
WAY AROUND
HERE.

HISHA.

GOOD
WORK.

I'VE BEEN
WATCHING
THE
ENEMY IN
TSUYAMA.

WE'LL
CAMP
HERE
TONIGHT!

SET UP
THE TENTS!
YEAH!

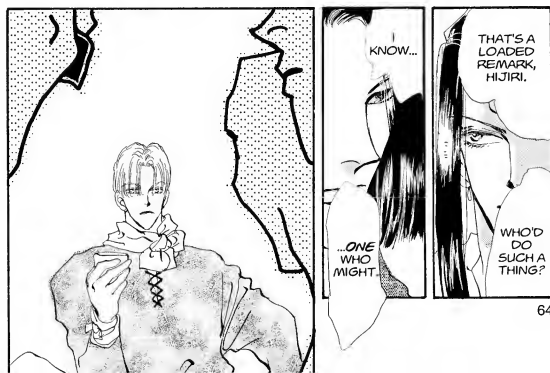
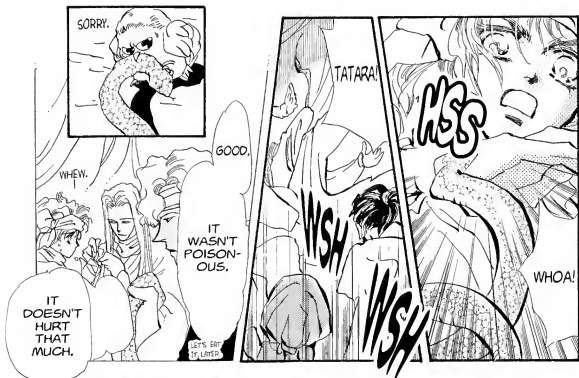
LORD
TATARA.

THERE'S
ANOTHER
ROCK
WALL TO
THE EAST.

THE TERRAIN
IS SUCH THAT
THEY ONLY
HAVE TO
WATCH ONE
DIRECTION.

A CLIFF
BEHIND
THEM
PROTECTS
THEM. IT
USED TO BE
A
WATERFALL.









MAY-
BE.

BUT
BE-
FORE...

HE
OFTEN
"DISAP-
PEARED"
DURING
BATTLE.



HIJIRI.

ASAGI'S
BEEN
WORKING
VERY
HARD
LATELY.



...YOU
BROUGHT
A
LETTER
FROM
THE
WHITE
KING.

NOW,
THAT'S
NOT A
GOOD
SIGN.

WHAT'S
YOUR
RELATION-
SHIP WITH
HIIRAGI,
ANYWAY?



WE DON'T
WANT A
CRACKED
ONE IN
THE
BUNCH.

WE'RE ALL
PRACTI-
CALLY
DANCIN' ON
EGGS.



I'M NOT
NAGI, BUT
I'VE GOT
A
FEELING.

HIJIRI'S
INTUITION
IS *SOME-
TIMES*
RIGHT.

LISTEN.







BUT...

LEAVE
ME
ALONE.



THAT'S
NOT
WHAT I
MEAN!

WHY
ARE YOU
ALWAYS
SO...

YOU'RE
AWFULLY
IRRITABLE,
TATARA.



YES,
SORRY.

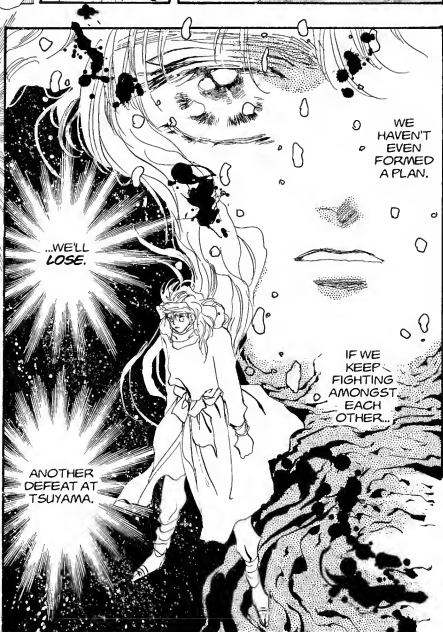
GUESS I
FORGOT TO
PANDER AND
GET ALL
TEARY-EYED.



I CAN'T
LET THAT
HAPPEN!

MAYBE
I'M
THE
ONE...

WHO'S
IRRI-
TABLE.



...WE'LL
LOSE.

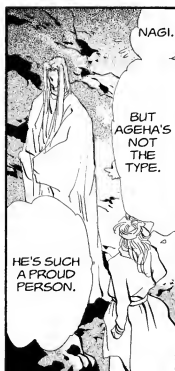
ANOTHER
DEFEAT AT
TSUYAMA.

WE
HAVEN'T
EVEN
FORMED
A PLAN.

IF WE
KEEP
FIGHTING
AMONGST
EACH
OTHER...



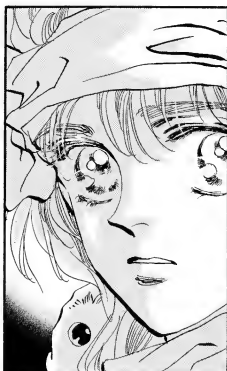




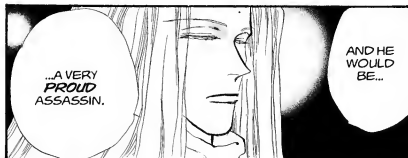
NAGI.

BUT
AGEHA'S
NOT
THE
TYPE.

HE'S SUCH
A PROUD
PERSON.



IT MUST BE
AGEHA'S
DOING.



...A VERY
PROUD
ASSASSIN.

AND HE
WOULD
BE...



...THE LAST
TIME WE
MET.

I
SHOUL'DVE
TALKED TO
HIM...



WHAT...

...DID
HE SAY
TO
YOU?

I NEVER
IMAGINED IT
COULD BE
THE LAST
TIME...

...WE
WOULD
SEE EACH
OTHER...

SHAA

I
FIGURED
I'D SEE
HIM
AGAIN.

I DIDN'T
THINK IT
WOULD BE
OUR LAST...

YOU
KNOW...

...HOW
HE
FEELS.

THE
PRESENT
IS ALL WE
HAVE!

THERE
MAY
NEVER BE
A NEXT
TIME!

HOW
COULD I
ASSUME?

THINGS ARE
NEVER
SURE IN
THIS AGE!



EVEN
IF...

...YOU
MAY BE
FAR
AWAY.

EVEN
IF...

...AND FADE
AWAY
ALONE IN
FAR-OFF
PLACES.

...WE
DIE...



...YOUR SOULS
WILL BE AS
ONE.

TO THE
BEST OF
YOUR
ABILITIES...

AS YOU
FOLLOW
YOUR
CALLING
...

THIS IS
ALL
DESTINY.

...IN THE
SAME
PERIOD IN
HISTORY.

YOU
PURSUE
THE
SAME
VISION...



...HAS
FAITH IN
YOU.

AND
AGEHA...

ALWAYS.



I HAVE
FAITH IN
AGEHA.

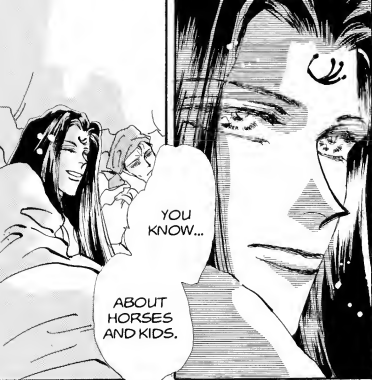


WITH A LIMITED FIELD OF VISION...

THE ONLY CHANCES
TO CHERISH
SOMEONE ARE THE
MOMENTS THEY'RE
IN YOUR PRESENCE.

...IT'S SO EASY TO MISS THE OBVIOUS.





YOU
KNOW...

ABOUT
HORSES
AND KIDS.

SHE'S
TALKING TO
EVERY SINGLE
ONE OF
THEM.



I
REMEMBER
A
PROVERB.



WHICH
ARE
WE...

...AND
WHICH
IS KING
UKON?



WHICH
ONE'S
TATARA?

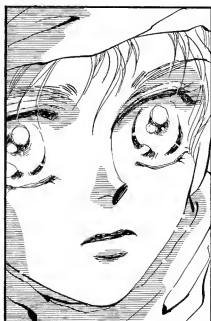


"A
THOUSAND
LAMBS LED
BY A SINGLE
LION...

...ARE
STRONGER
THAN A
THOUSAND
LIONS...

LED
BY A
LAMB."





Vertical Tam-Tam Time: ②

Profile of Taro: ②

Glasses



They're an old-fashioned type that hold the lenses steady at the forehead. Eyeglasses are rare in this age. It looks like there are few nearsighted people...

TARU



...LIVING
YOUR LIFE
FOR YOURSELF.

BEING
SELFISH
IS...



I BELIEVE
THEY THINK
I'M SELFISH
ENOUGH.

NOT
AT
ALL.



DON'T YOU
THINK
TATARA'S
PRETTY
SELFISH
THAT WAY?



IVE
COME UP
WITH A
PLAN!

AND I WANT
US TO
MAKE
AMULETS
FOR EACH
OTHER!

IT'S RISKY,
BUT I
THINK IT'S
THE ONLY
WAY.



SHURI...

...WAS ALSO
ON HIS WAY TO
TSUYAMA, AS
THE RED KING.

WHEN I TOLD
HIM I WAS ON
MY WAY TO
MEET MY
ENEMY...

...HE
GAVE ME
AN
AMULET.



THAT
DAY...



...ON MY WAY
TO TSUYAMA...

...I RAN INTO
SHURI.



...I'M
SORRY.

KAKU...

LET'S
GO!

TATARA,
TIME FOR
BATTLE!

SUNSET
AT
TSUYAMA
GORGE.



TATARA LED A
SORTIE
STRAIGHT INTO
THE ENEMY.



THEY'RE AT AN
OBVIOUS
DISADVANTAGE
ON THIS
NARROW PATH!

ARE
THEY
INSANE?

Ho

KING
UKON'S
ARMY DID
NOT
REALIZE...

...WAS
ANOTHER
DETACHED
SQUAD.

...THAT ON THE
CLIFFS ABOVE
THEM, WHICH
THEY BELIEVED
TO BE SAFE...

ASAGI, TAKE
CONFIDENT
RIDERS WITH
YOU ABOVE
THE OLD
WATERFALL.

HIJIRI,
TAKE THE
EAST CLIFF.

IF
DEER
CAN
DO IT...

...SO CAN
HORSES!

DWDM DWDM
H
R AA

THEN
HIJIRI
WILL
COME IN
FOR THE
FINISH.

MY
TROOPS
WILL
ATTACK
THEM
HEAD-ON.

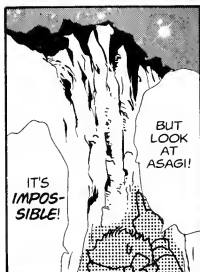
ASAGI
GOES
NEXT.

SHE
WANTS TO
SEE....

...OFF
THIS
CLIFF.

...IF I'LL
RISK MY
LIFE AND
TAKE THE
PLUNGE...

TATARA'S
TESTING ME.

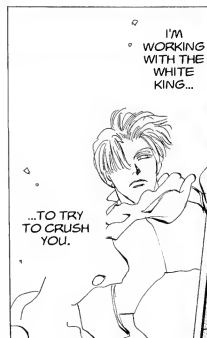


IT'S
IMPOS-
SIBLE!

BUT
LOOK
AT
ASAGI!



HIJIRI,
WE'RE
PRETTY
HIGH UP...



I'M
WORKING
WITH THE
WHITE
KING...

...TO TRY
TO CRUSH
YOU.



DID YOU
HONESTLY
THINK...

...I'D
DO
THIS?





IF I DON'T
DO THIS, YOU'LL BE
ANNIHILATED.

YOU'RE
MAKING A
FOOLISH
GAMBLE!



HE CAN'T MAKE
UP HIS MIND.

IS HE
GOING
YET?

HE'D
BETTER
HURRY.

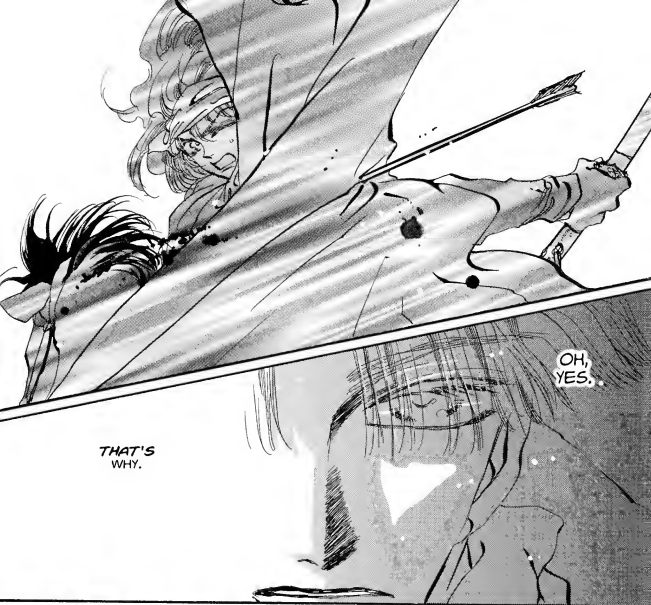


...AREN'T
YOU
TELLING
ME TO
HURRY
UP?

WHY...







THAT'S
WHY.

OH,
YES.



I NEED YOU
TO STAY
ALIVE FOR
NOW.

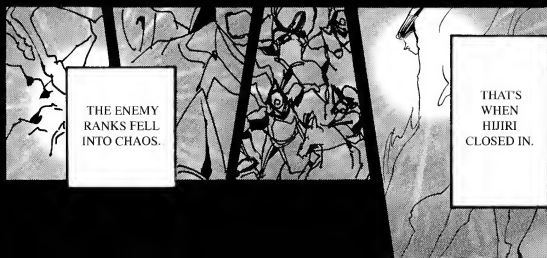
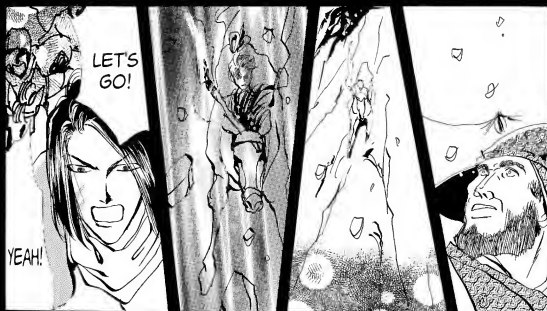
THAT'S
WHY.



FOL-
LOW
HIM!

THAT'S
WHY!







VICTORY...

...WAS
DECIDED IN
AN INSTANT.



ASAGI!

HUFF

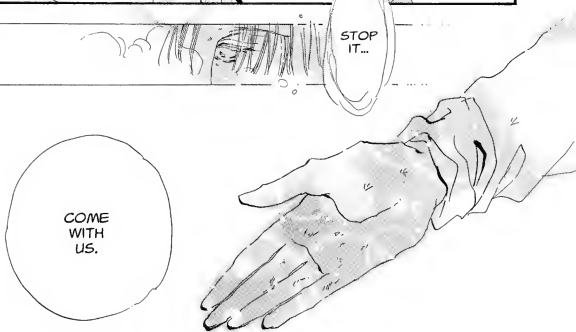
HUFF

HUFF

HUFF



THEY
CRUMBLED
LIKE A
WATER-
FALL.







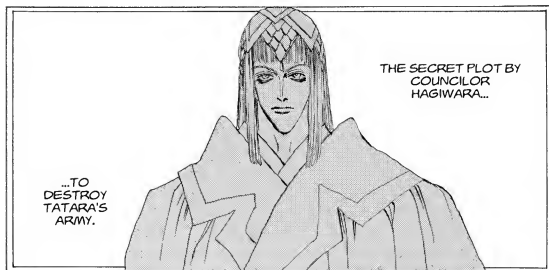


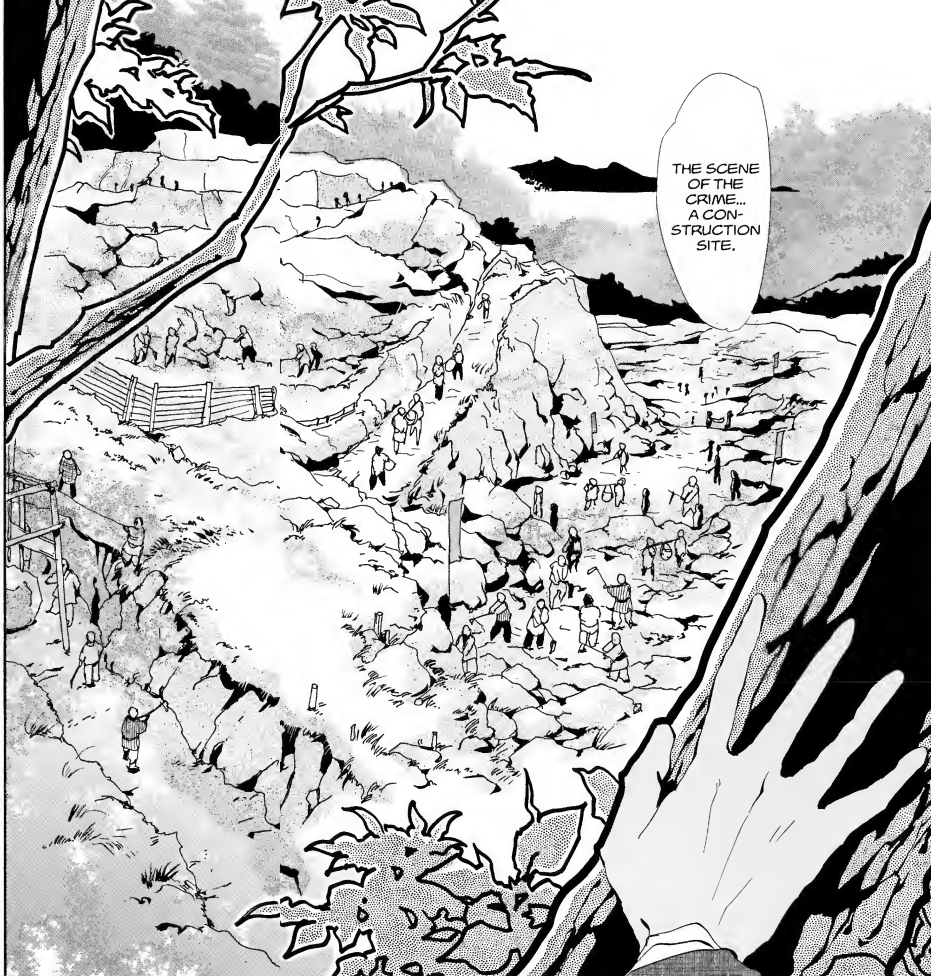
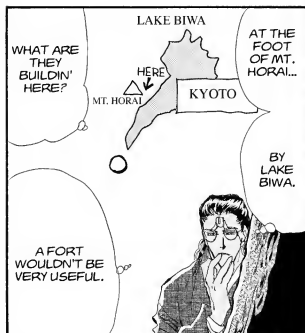
IF YOU WERE COLD...





COPPER TALE 3: SUCCESSOR





KYOTO ROYAL CASTLE

NOW I
KNOW MY
TROOPS
ARE
INCOMPE-
TENT.

SIRE!

KING
UKON!

WE
NEED
OR-
DERS!

TATARA'S
ARMY HAS
FORCED ITS
WAY
THROUGH
TSUYAMA.

SO
ARE
YOU,
TACHI-
BANA.

AWAY
WITH
YOU!

COUNCILOR
TACHIBANA

TINY TAM-TAM TIME ③

Travel Log ②

I took a side trip from Kyoto.
I went on a boat cruise around Lake
Biwa, aboard a ship called the
Michigan. They serve dinner on board.
The crew was all American.

Birds flocked
around us.

I stood on the deck
at dusk, spacing out.
It was so relaxing.

I forget what it looked like,
but it was big.

CRUISES
ARE SO
NICE.

Continued in part 4.
T.G.V.

SARASA'S JOURNEY

Tsuyama Gorge

Mt. Horai

Lake Biwa

Shuri

Kyoto

Suo City



SIRE!

IT WILL BE
THE
COUNTRY'S
DOWN-
FALL!

SIRE!

ANY-
THING
BUT
THAT!

LORD
TACHI-
BANA,
PLEASE!



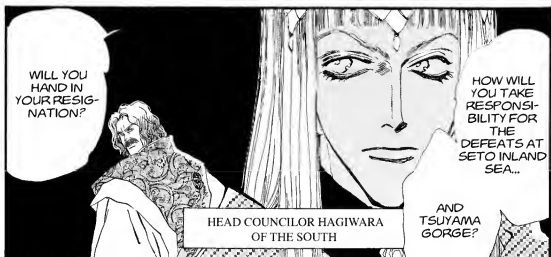
I'LL HAVE TO
RELY ON
OTHER
COUNTRIES
FOR HELP.

GO.



LORD
HAGI-
WARA.

DON'T
MAKE A
SPEC-
TACLE
OF
YOUR-
SELF.



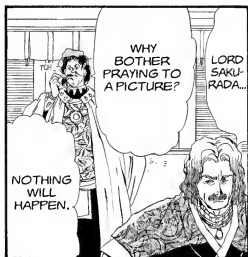
WILL YOU
HAND IN
YOUR RESIG-
NATION?

HOW WILL
YOU TAKE
RESPONSI-
BILITY FOR
THE
DEFEATS AT
SETO INLAND
SEA...

HEAD COUNCILOR HAGIWARA
OF THE SOUTH

AND
TSUYAMA
GORGE?

THE FOUR COUNCILORS: THE HIGHEST-RANKING OF THE ARISTOCRACY: HAGIWARA OF THE SOUTH, TACHIBANA OF THE WEST, SAKURADA OF THE EAST AND THE LATE MOMONOT OF THE NORTH.





WE NEED A
MIGHTY
KING WHO
CAN TAKE
COMMAND!

WE HAVE
NO
LEADER!



IT'S NICE
TO
MINGLE
WITH THE
COMMON-
ERS,
BUT...

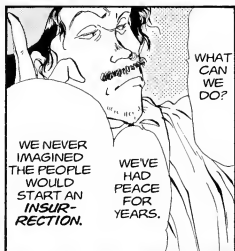
COM-
MONERS
TELL LOTS
OF
STORIES.



SIR.

WHAT DO
YOU DO
EVERY
DAY?

PLAY
OTHELLO
AT A
SHIJO
BAR.



WHAT
CAN
WE
DO?

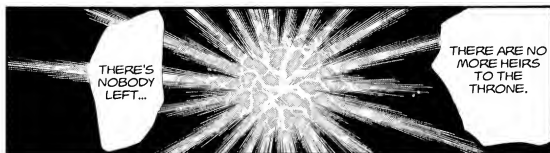
WE NEVER
IMAGINED
THE PEOPLE
WOULD
START AN
INSUR-
RECTION.

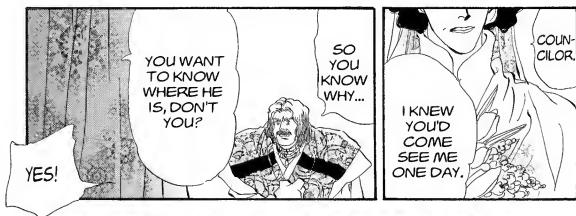
WE'VE
HAD
PEACE
FOR
YEARS.



...AND HOW LORD
HAGIWARA IS
PLOTING SOME
KIND OF
CONSPIRACY.

LIKE HOW
SOMEONE'S
BEEN BUYING
UP OIL...





WE'LL TAKE
FUWA
CHECKPOINT
BEFORE
SUNDOWN!

ATTACK!

RAAH

YEAH

KIKUNE!

I CAN'T
WALK LIKE
THIS!

GRSP

YOU DON'T
WALK!
YOU'RE
SUPPOSED
TO SKI!!

SKIS MADE BY KIKU.

SPAT

RAAH

WUMP

...DUE TO
RESIDUAL
SNOW COVER.

IBUKI
MOUNTAINS

FUWA CHECKPOINT

KYOTO

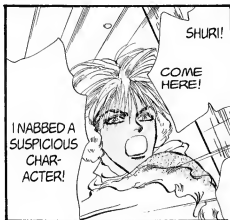
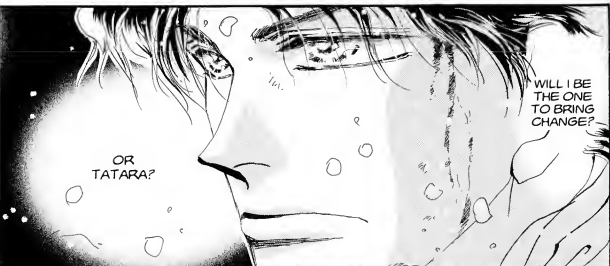
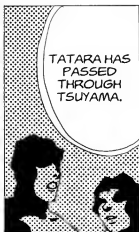
O-ICHI IS DEFENDING
THE BORDER WITH
HIS ARMY.



SHURI

AT THE IBUKI
MOUNTAINS,
THEY RAN
INTO
TROUBLE...

SHURI LED THE
BLACK VOLUNTEER
ARMY IN A PUSH TO
FORCE THE ROYAL
ARMY BACK FROM
THE BORDER.





HE SAYS
HE'S A MESSEN-
GER...

BUT HE
WON'T
GIVE ME
HIS
NAME.

HE WAS
WANDERING
AROUND BY
HIMSELF.



NAKIJIN!

UH-
HUH.

AND
HE WAS
ALONE?

I
DOUBT
IT.

THERE'LL
BE AN
ARMY
RIGHT
BEHIND
HIM!



AH!



YOU...



...YOUR
HIGHNESS,
THE RED
PRINCE.

TO
SEE
YOU...

THERE
IS NONE.

I CAME
ALONE.



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
HERE?

THERE'S A
WAR ON!
SHOULDN'T
YOU BE IN
KYOTO?



BUT
YOU'RE
ONE...

...OF THE
FOUR
COUNCIL-
ORS.



I NEEDED A
LECTURE.
I LONGED TO
HEAR SUCH
WORDS, YOUR
HIGHNESS.

YES,
YES.



FUNNY, I
DON'T REMEM-
BER A
MOTHER.

SO WHY
ARE
YOU
HERE?



LADY
AMA.

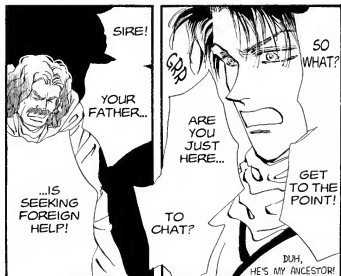
SHE'S
ALWAYS
WATCHING
OVER YOU.

YOUR
MOTHER.



IDIOT.

HOW DID
YOU
KNOW
WHERE I
WAS?





YOUR
HIGH-
NESS!

...AS THE
TRUE
SUCCESSOR
TO KING
UKON!

PLEASE!
YOU MUST
COME TO
KYOTO WITH
ME...





I
WON'T
MIND.

IF THAT'S
WHAT YOU
CHOOSE,
SO BE IT.



I'M
FIGHTING
THE
ROYAL
ARMY
NOW.

...AND
OVER-
THREW
THE
KINGDOM?

WHAT
IF I
WENT
TO
KYOTO,
KILLED
MY
FATHER...



YOU'VE
MADE A
MISTAKE.



...AND TRAMPLE
AND RUIN ALL
THE WORK OF
CENTURIES!

I
JUST CAN'T
LET THAT
RUFFIAN
TATARA
COME OUT
OF NO-
WHERE...



BUT WHAT
KIND OF
WORLD
WILL THAT
MAKE?

A FRACTURED
WORLD IN
CHAOS, LIKE
THERE WAS
LONG AGO!

IT'S EASY
TO WHINE
ABOUT
GRIEVANCES...

...AND
DESTROY
FOR THE
SAKE OF
DESTRUC-
TION.



THE ROYAL
FAMILY
ESTABLISHED
ORDER AND
BUILT IT INTO
WHAT IT IS
NOW.

...THIS LAND
WAS
NOTHING.

300
YEARS
AGO...



...NEED
TO BE
CARRIED
ON.

SOME
TRADITIONS...



YOU
ARE
THE
ONLY...

...ONE...

LEFT.

YOU AND
TATARA
COULD
NEVER
SUPPORT
ONE
ANOTHER!

THE LAST OF
THE ROYAL
BLOOD FLOWS
IN YOUR VEINS!



BECAUSE
YOU AREN'T
CONSPIRING
NOW.

YOU
NEVER
WILL.



HOW...

...DO YOU
KNOW I
WON'T
CONSPIRE
WITH
TATARA?

AND
YOU...

...ARE AN
IDIOT
WHO
WALKED
INTO AN
ENEMY
CAMP!

THE
RED
KING...

NEVER
CALL ME
BY THAT
NAME
AGAIN.

IS
DEAD.

FROM
THE
SOUND
OF IT...

...YOU'VE
GIVEN UP ON
KING UKON
MORE THAN
ANYTHING
ELSE.

I'LL SEND
YOUR HEAD
TO MY
FATHER!

DIE!

SHURI!



DO YOU
WANT A
SOLDIER'S
DEATH?

A GLORIOUS
PLACE IN
HISTORY,
TACHIBANA?



DO YOU
WANT A
PLACE TO
DIE?



I CAME
PRE-
PARED...

FOR
ANY
FATE.



I WANT TO
DIE FOR A
KING I
BELIEVE IN!

YES, I
DO!

I WANT A
PROUD
DEATH!

GO.











IT HAS
TO BE
TWO?



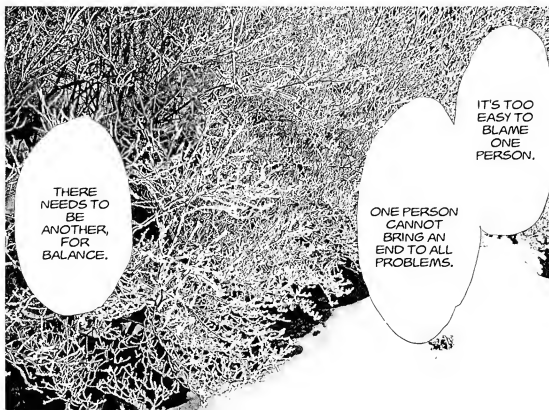
TWO
CHILD-
REN OF
DESTINY...

WILL HELP
MAKE IT
HAPPEN.



THAT WOULD
LEAVE MANY
WHO WILL
RESENT
CHANGE.

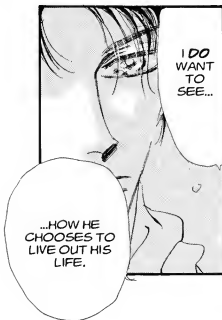
ONE CHILD
ALONE CAN
ONLY
DESTROY.



THERE
NEEDS TO
BE
ANOTHER,
FOR
BALANCE.

ONE PERSON
CANNOT
BRING AN
END TO ALL
PROBLEMS.

IT'S TOO
EASY TO
BLAME
ONE
PERSON.









WOW!
LORD NIJO
WAS
KILLED!

THE
GREAT
APE
STRUCK
AGAIN!

KYOTO...

IS HE A
MONSTER?



HACHIYA.

WHAT'S
THIS
ABOUT?



TWK



WE THINK ONE
OF YOUR
RELATIVES OR
EMPLOYEES...

HAS BEEN
ACTING AS A
SPY FOR THE
NEWSPAPER.

AND
COMMUNI-
CATING WITH
THE
ASSASSIN AS
WELL.



SIR.

WE FOUND
THIS IN THE
NEWS-
PAPER
HIDEOUT.

THE CLOVER-
BUSH MOTIF
IS RESERVED
FOR YOUR
HOUSEHOLD
ONLY.



Vertical Tam-Tam Time ③

Taro's Profile: ③



He sometimes wears fancy clothes.
He's a real metrosexual.

T&W



HOW RUDE!
HE WANTS
ME TO
SNIFF
AROUND?



HE'S BEEN
KILLING MANY
OF YOUR MEN.

HE MAY
COME
AFTER YOU,
TOO.



y...
YES,
MAS-
TER.

SCATTER
SALT TO
PURIFY
WHERE HE
STOOD.



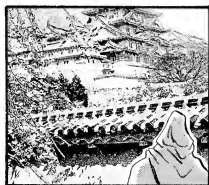
MY
PLANS...

...ARE
BEING
LEAKED...



SOMEONE
AROUND
ME...

...IS
COMMUNICATING
WITH THE
ENEMY?







SUMMON
TACHIBANA
AT ONCE!

WHAT?

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

WH...

WHAT?

GET A NEW
GATEKEEPER,
TACHIBANA!

A DOG
WOULD
DO A
BETTER
JOB!







LET'S
GO.

TK



SO
YOU
KNEW.
IT'S
BEEN
KEPT TOP
SECRET...

... THAT A
MESSEN-
GER IS
HERE
INCOGNITO.



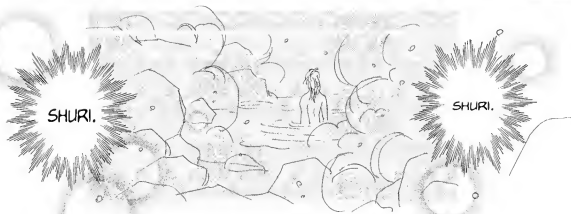
SIR?

SHOW
ME
THE
WAY.

MY FATHER
IS MEETING
A FOREIGN
MESSEN-
GER, ISN'T
HE?



...THEREFORE,
WE'D LIKE YOUR
HELP WITH
SOLDIERS AND
WEAPONS...





SHURI...

YOU'VE
FALLEN FOR
IT, TATARA!

AH!

AAH!

AH...

NO!





SHU-
RI...

...THE
RED
KING.

HE
WENT
TO
KYOTO.



I
RUSHED
OVER.
NOT
BY
AIR.

I HAD
TO
TELL
YOU.



KIKU?
WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING
HERE?



HE'S
BECOME
KING UKON'S
SUCCESSOR.

...IN THE
MORNING
COME
TRUE.

THEY
SAY
DREAMS
SEEN...



COPPER TALE 4: VERDANT TRAILS



WOULD
IT HAVE
BEEN
BETTER
IF WE
HAD
NEVER
MET AT
ALL?

WOULD I
HAVE
BEEN
HAPPIER
IF I HAD
NEVER
KNOWN
HIM?



SHURI,
THE RED
KING, WILL
BE THE
KING'S
SUCCESSOR.

COPPER TALE 4: VERDANT TRAILS



TINY TAM-TAM TIME ④

I went to Kanazawa, the capital of Ishikawa Prefecture. It was summer the last time I went, so this time I wanted to see Kenrokuen Gardens covered in snow. But then...

IT RAINED.

Travel Log ⑬

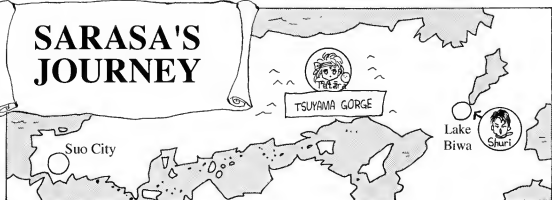


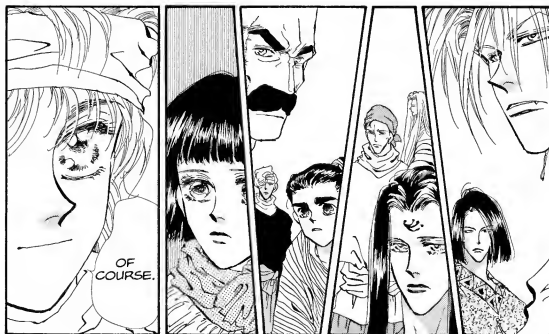
Then the next day, when I went to buy some crab at the market, it suddenly started to snow! I was surprised by how fast it accumulated. It was an amazing sight for someone like me who grew up in the south. And I ate so much crab! Yay for the Hokuriku region!

TAM-IV

↑ Those are rope supports protecting the trees from heavy snow.

SARASA'S JOURNEY







IT WOULD
BE BEST TO
ATTACK
BEFORE
THEY CAN
REGROUP...

SOME
MEN
MIGHT
JOIN THE
RED
KING.

YADDA
YADDA

WE'LL
HAVE TO
GET
MORE
INFORMA-
TION.

YEAH, IT
DEPENDS ON
HOW MANY
SOLDIERS THE
RED KING CAN
MOBILIZE.

STEP
OUTSIDE.

TATA-
RA.

A TEST
OF
NERVE.

...TO SEE
WHO CAN
STOP
CLOSEST
TO THE
EDGE.

SEE
THAT
CLIFF?

WE
RACE ON
HORSE-
BACK...

YAY!

LET'S
PLAY A
LITTLE
GAME.

WHAT
IS IT?

FWD



HWOO





GOOD LUCK!
BREAK A
LEG!

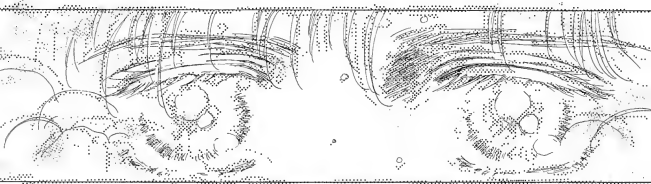
GO!

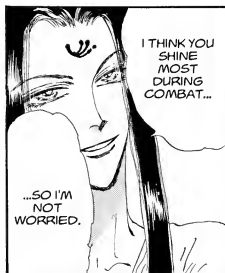
READY...
SET...

GO,
TATARA!

SHURI!

THE
RED
KING...





I THINK YOU SHINE MOST DURING COMBAT...



HIJIRI'S A WORRY-WART.

YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE IN WHAT YOU'RE DOING.



BUT IT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH.



WILL YOU BE ABLE TO MAKE UP YOUR MIND THEN?





MURA-
TAKE...



KIKU-
NE.

COME!
ON.



KTA
KTA
KTA
KTA

I'LL BE
BACK BY
NIGHT-
FALL!

OH!

I'LL GO
WITH
YOU!



...YOU
WON'T
BE ABLE
TO BE
FRIENDS.

ONCE
TATARA
FINDS
OUT YOU
WORK
FOR THE
WHITE
KING...

AS ONE
OF THE
FOUR
VIRTUES...



HEY,
MURA-
TAKE!

LET'S PLAY!

YOU
POP UP
WHEN
WE
LEAST
EXPECT
IT!

...I'M
NOT
ONE
TO
TALK...

I
SUP-
POSE...



KI-
KU...

MURA-
TAKE?

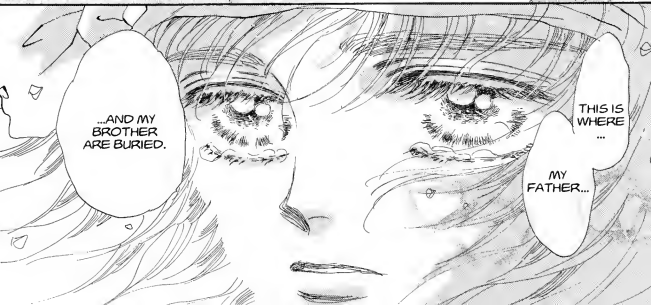


YEAH,
IT IS.



SARASA!

SARASA!



...AND MY
BROTHER
ARE BURIED.

THIS IS
WHERE
...

MY
FATHER...



THIS USED
TO BE
BYAKKO
VILLAGE.

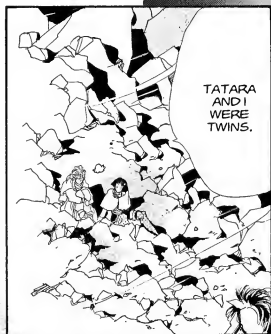
THE PLACE
WHERE I WAS
BORN...MY
OLD HOME.



NAGI MADE A
PROPHECY
THAT HE
WAS THE
CHILD OF
DESTINY...

WHO
WOULD
SAVE THE
COUNTRY.

BUT
THEN...



TATARA
AND I
WERE
TWIN.



WHERE IS
THE BOY
OF
DESTINY?

...THE
RED
ARMY
CAME.

BRING OUT
TATARA AND
THE BYAKKO
SWORD!

TATARA!



WE
COULDN'T
AFFORD
TO LOSE
HIM!



HE WAS
OUR
ONLY
HOPE.



TATARA
WASN'T
SUPPOSED
TO DIE.



I'M...

...GOING.



...WAS
SARASA.

THE ONE
THEY
KILLED...



LOOK!
GENERAL
KAZAN...

HAS TAKEN
THE BOY OF
DESTINY'S
HEAD!



TATARA
STANDS
BEFORE
YOU!

...FOLLOW
ME!

ALL WHO
WOULD SEE
THE FALL
OF THE
KING...



HOW
DID YOU
MEET
SHURI?



...WHO
SHARE
OUR AM-
BITIONS.
FIND
THEM.

JUST
LIKE
GRANDPA
TOLD ME.

THERE ARE
THREE
OTHER
SWORDS
HELD BY
PEOPLE...



I WASN'T
BORN
YET.

I
DREAMED
OF
DEFEATING
THE RED
KING ONE
DAY...

AND I
WENT
ON A
JOURNEY
TO FIND
FRIENDS.





I FAIL AS
TATARA.

BUT...

BUT...

...THAT'S
SARASA
TALKING.

I
MAKE
EVERY-
ONE
WORRY.

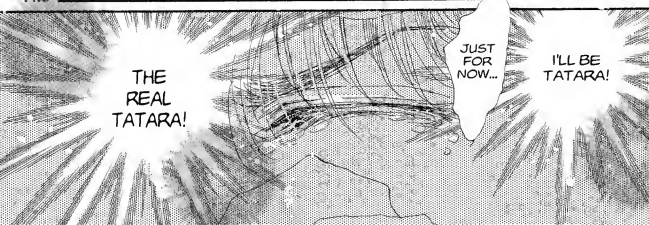
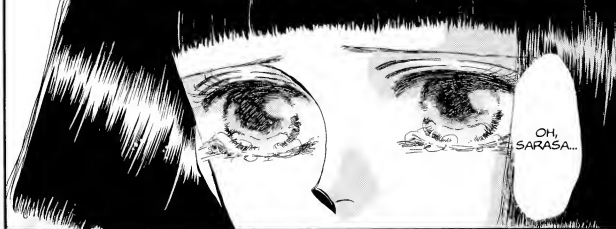
THEY
TIPTOE
AROUND
ME.

I...

ALL WE HAD
TOGETHER?

WOULD I
WISH IT
AWAY?

I
CAN'T!



THOUGHT...

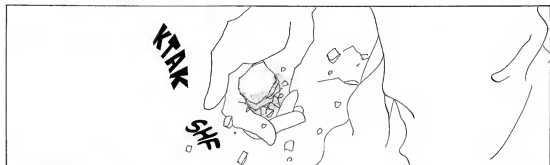
...THERE WOULD
BE A DAY WHEN I
COULD WORK
TOGETHER WITH
SHURI.

I WAS
WRONG.

...THE
RED
KING
WILL BE
MY
ENEMY.

IT WAS
WISHFUL
THINKING.

FROM
BEGINNING
TO END...





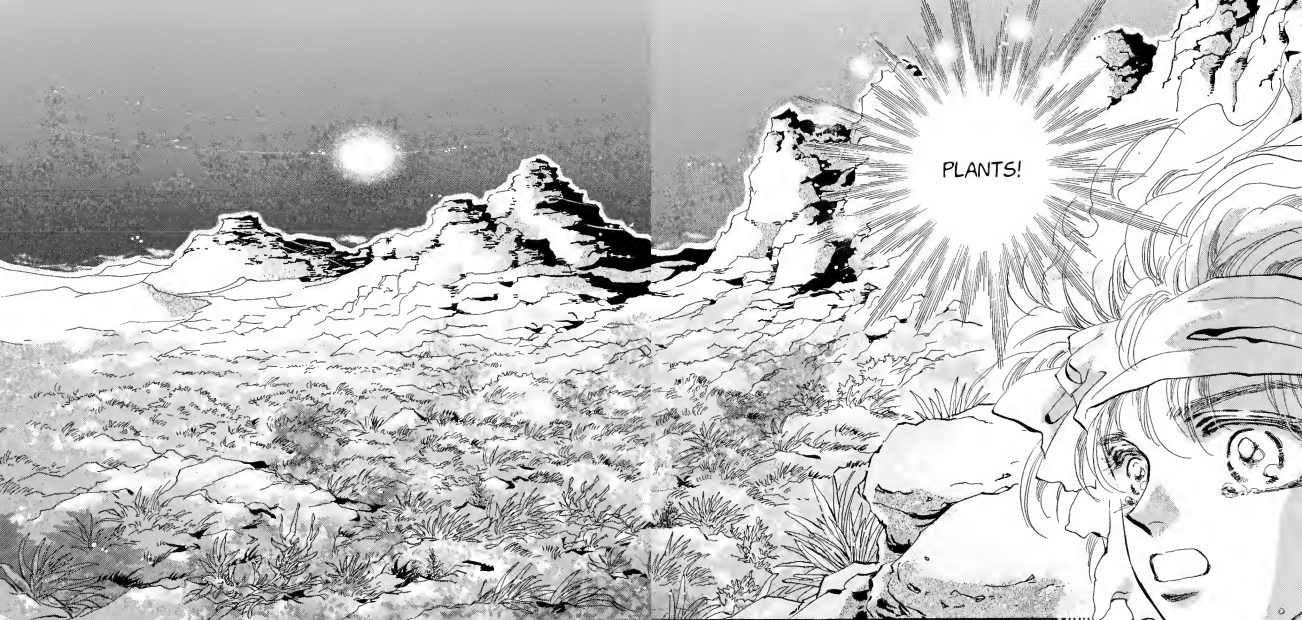
TELL
ME.

DEAR
BRO-
THER...

...BUT I'VE
LET IT
GROW
OUT
AGAIN.

I CUT MY
HAIR TO
LOOK LIKE
YOU...





PLANTS!



I
DID
IT.

I
PLANTED
THEM.

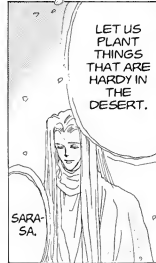


YOU'RE
SO
PASSION-
ATE,
SARASA.



WE WANT
MORE
GREEN
AROUND
THE
VILLAGE.

NAGIAN
I AM
DOING
RE-
SEARCH.



LET US
PLANT
THINGS
THAT ARE
HARDY IN
THE
DESERT.

SARA-
SA.



JUST
THIS
PATCH!

WHY?

WAS IT
ALWAYS
LIKE
THIS?



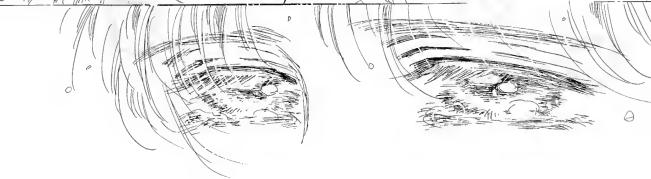
YOU'RE SO
PASSIONATE,
SARASA.



TATARA...



IS THIS WHERE
YOU WERE?





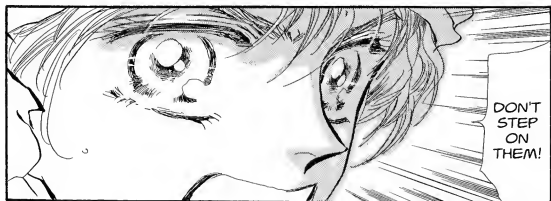
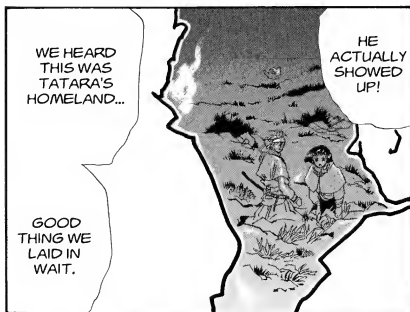
ONE
DAY...



YEAH.



ONE DAY,
THIS WILL
NO
LONGER
BE A
DESERT.



VERTICAL TAM-TAM TIME: ④

Taro's Profile: 4

He's writing *The History of Tataru's War*.



It's his dream to leave it for all posterity. Maybe the book you're holding was actually written by him.

TAMU



SARA-SA!

...WITHOUT BRINGING YOUR HEAD!





HAYATO?



IT'S ME!

BINGO!



WE'RE
HERE.

CHA-
CHA...



WE'RE NOT
ABOUT TO
LET YOU DO
THIS BY
YOURSELF.

WE'RE
ALL
HERE.

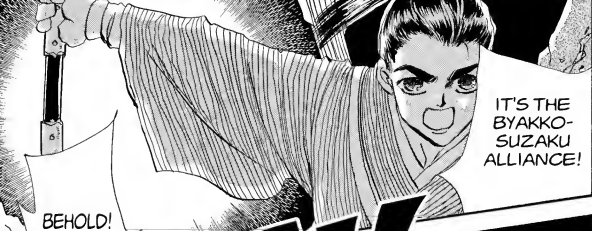


BET YOU
ALL
FORGOT.

I'M
BETTER
AT
ARCHERY...

WOOD!

BUT I HAVE
THE
SUZAKU
SWORD!





RAIZO?
THAT
YOU?

SORRY
WE'RE
LATE,
TATARA.



ACTU-
ALLY...

...I
WANTED
TO SEE
IZUMI
AND MY
SON.



YOU
DIDN'T
HAVE
TO...

WE
NEEDED
PEOPLE TO
STAY
BEHIND TO
REBUILD...

SO WE
ONLY
BROUGHT
A SELECT
FEW.



HEY
THERE!
REMEMBER
ME?

SO YOU WERE
TATARA!

SERVO
AND
MATSU-
MUSHI!



WE HAIL
FROM
KANTO...

WE'RE
HERE TO
JOIN
TATARA'S
ARMY!

WITH
THE
SEIRYU
SWORD!

RAAH



THAT'S...



WOW!

THERE'S
SO MANY
OF
THEM!



SARASA!

MORE
LIGHTS
FROM
THAT WAY!



RAAH



IT'S BEEN
A WHILE,
TATARA.

MASUNAGA!

THE WAR
WITH THE
BLACK KING
IS OVER...

SO WE
CAME
DOWN BY
BOAT.

MASU-
NAGA!
NO
LUCK!

TAMON
SHOULD
BE HERE
ALREADY
...

THERE
AIN'T NO
FISH
HERE!

OWL AND
FOX ARE
RECUPER-
ATING IN
KAZUNO.

BUT I
WANTED
TO HELP.

WATER
DEER!

FROM
ABASHIRI
PRISON!

YOU'RE
HERE,
TOO?

HI.
THINKS
AGAIN
FOR
YOUR
HELP!

NA-
NAO!

OK



WE...

THE
KAZUNO
FROM
TOHOKU,
ALL 50,000
OF US...

...SHALL LEND A
HAND TO
TATARA'S
ARMY!



HI!

HE HAS
THE
GENBU
SWORD.

HIM

SEE WHAT I
HAVE TO GO
THROUGH?

A GIFT FOR YOU

RI A A YAH



TATA-
RA.

THIS IS
TESTAMENT
TO ALL YOU'VE
WORKED FOR.



BUT BY
UNITING
THOSE
WHO WIELD
THEM...

THE
SWORDS
ARE ONLY
THAT--
SWORDS.

...YOU MAY
FORGE A
GREAT
POWER.



GATHER
THE FOUR
SWORDS,
TATARA.

YA H

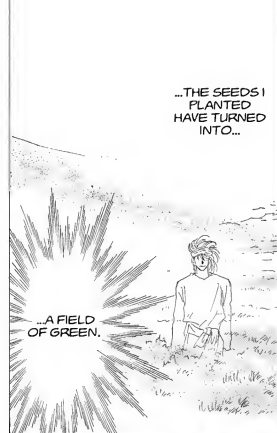


THIS IS
TESTAMENT.

AND
KUMANO!

YEAH!

DON'T
FORGET
SHIKOKU!



...A FIELD
OF GREEN.

...THE SEEDS I
PLANTED
HAVE TURNED
INTO...



EVEN
IF I
CAN'T
TURN
BACK
TIME...

TATARA!



WE'LL BUILD
A NEW
COUNTRY!

RA AAH

RA

LET US
FIGHT
TOGETHER!

IT COMES
TOGETHER
NOW!

THIS HAS
BEEN MY
JOURNEY!

RAAH

RAAH

RAAH

RAAH

RAAH

THE
DESERT
IS LIT...

RAAH

...BY
HUNDREDS
OF THOU-
SANDS OF
LIGHTS.



NOT ENOUGH
HOTTIES

WHAT ABOUT
US?

IF ONLY
AGEHA
WERE
HERE,
TOO.



IT'S LIKE
SEEING A
GLIMPSE OF
THE NEW
COUNTRY.

YAH



THE
REPRESENT-
ATIVES
FROM EACH
REGION...

DR.
BASHO?

COME
TOGETHER
TO TALK
THINGS
OUT...

...AND
WORK
TOGETHER
TO BUILD A
NATION.



IT WON'T
BE LIKE THE
JAPAN OF
OLD, WITH
ITS
MONARCHY
...

...OR
OKINAWA,
WITH ITS
PRESIDENT.

THIS IS A
NEW
NATION.



TATARA.

THERE
WAS
SOME-
THING I
HAD TO
TELL
YOU.

NO...
SARASA.



THE REAL
CHILD OF
DESTINY...

...WAS
YOU, NOT
YOUR
BROTHER.

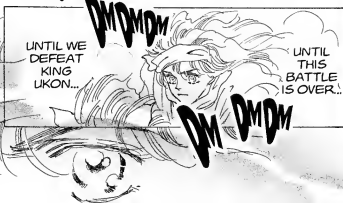


MAS-
TER
NAGI.

BUT SHE
DOESN'T
NEED TO BE
TOLD
ANYMORE.



ALL THIS, SHE
HAS
ACCOMPLISHED
ON HER OWN.





UNTIL
THAT
DAY, I
WILL
REMAIN...

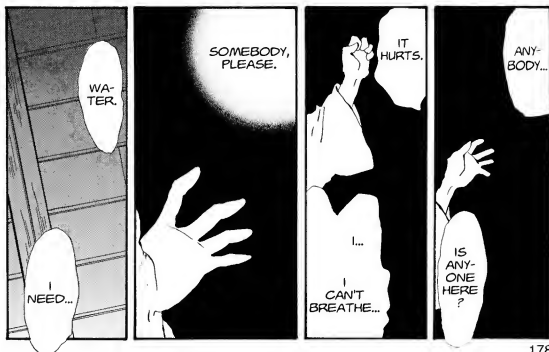


SHURI WAS
ALSO
PREPARING
...

...FOR THE
FINAL
BATTLE.

BONUS: A BRIEF RECESS, PART 2

SOMEBODY...











YUM!
THE
FRUIT
IS SO
GOOD.

HERE.



HA
HA

SORRY,
ASAGI.
ARE YOU
ALL
RIGHT?

SO MANY
PEOPLE
SENT US
GIFTS!

ISN'T IT
GREAT?
HAVE A
TASTE.

ARE
YOU
THIRSTY?
WANT
ANYTHING
TO EAT?



YAA

THAT LEAP
OFF THE
CLIFF
GAVE ME A
FEVER!

WHY
ARE YOU
DOING
THIS IN
MY
TENT?

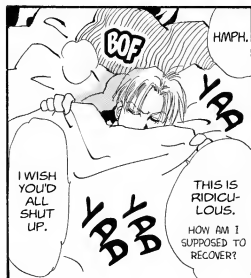
READY?
GO!



YOU'RE
ANNOYING
ME.
I CAN'T GET
ANY SLEEP.

AM I "ALL
RIGHT"?
WHAT DO
YOU THINK?

SCHLOMP



BOF

HMPH.

YAA

I WISH
YOU'D
ALL
SHUT
UP.

YAA

THIS IS
RIDICU-
LOUS.

HOW AM I
SUPPOSED TO
RECOVER?



STILL
WARM.

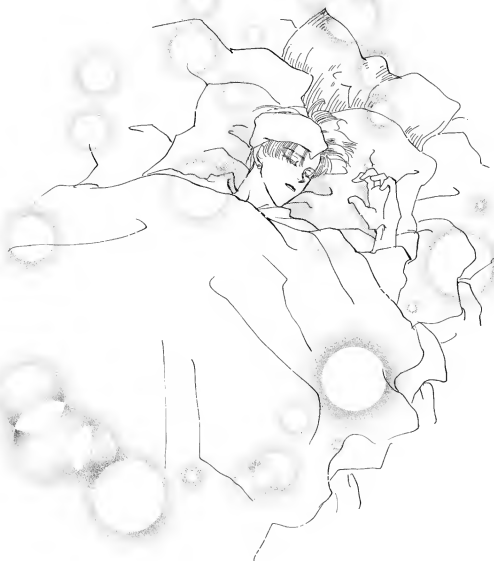
YOUR
FEVER IS
COMING
DOWN.

YAA

YAA

DOES IT
HURT ANY-
WHERE?

IT'S SO INCREDIBLY...ANNOYING...



Extra Bonus

Taro's Special Report:

BASARAN

NOW...

ALL SORTS OF
OLD FRIENDS
HAVE COME
FROM ALL
OVER JAPAN
TO JOIN
TATARA.

HELLO!

THANKS FOR
YOUR
CONTINUED
SUPPORT!

BUT IT'S
GETTING
HARDER
TO KEEP
TRACK...

OF WHAT'S
CURRENTLY
GOING ON IN
EACH
REGION.



SO!



A 地区

Kazuno

G 地区

Sanyo/
Sanin

B 地区

Former domain
of the
Black King

D 地区

Kyoto

I 地区

Kyushu

C 地区

Kanto

E 地区

Osaka

F 地区

Kii/
Kumano

H 地区

Shikoku

TURN TO
THE NEXT
PAGE,
PLEASE!

YOU CAN
SKIP THIS
IF YOU
KNOW
ALREADY!

I'D LIKE TO
PRESENT A
ROUGH
OUTLINE OF
THE
SITUATION!

A SUMMARY!



An independent region centered around Kazuno. It fought off invasion by the Royal Army (mostly the Black Army) for years.

A 地区

Kazuno

Tamon

Mochikuni

Also read as "Jikoku."

Hirome

Masunaga

Kazuno

(The inland areas are still shrouded in mystery.)

The four generals defend each stockade. It was mostly Masunaga's army in the south that fought the Black Army.

His hobby is fishing.

Masunaga and Tamon

He's married.

Has the Genbu Sword.

It recently formed an alliance with Kanto and Tataru and ended its war with the Black Army.

These two led their troops to join Tataru.

The Black King retired after a coup. It's now autonomous.

Shikoku City

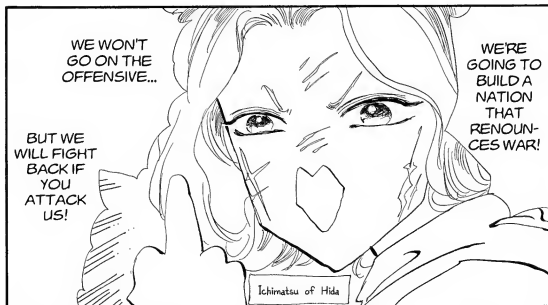
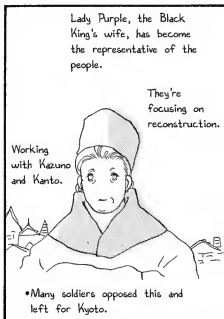
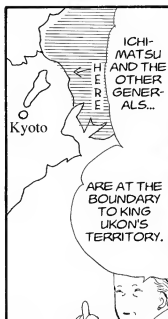
Tenkyo Lake

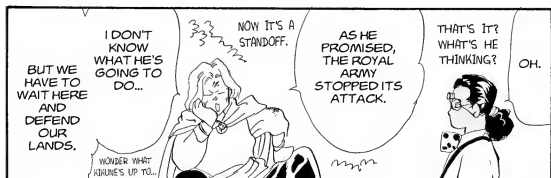
B 地区

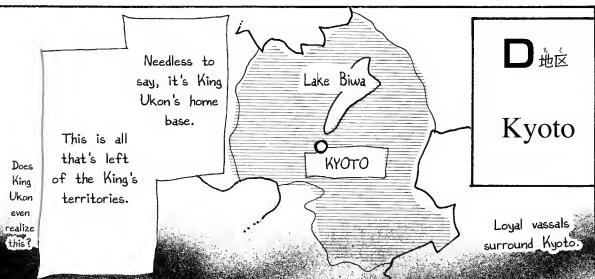
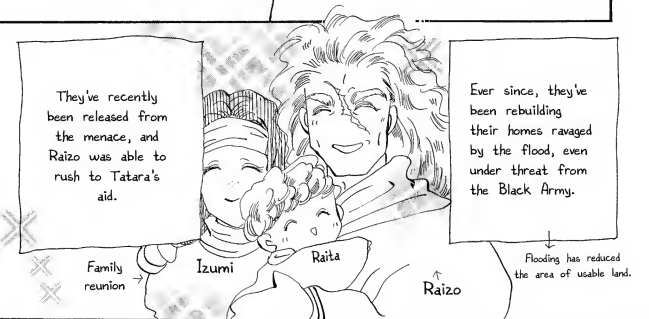
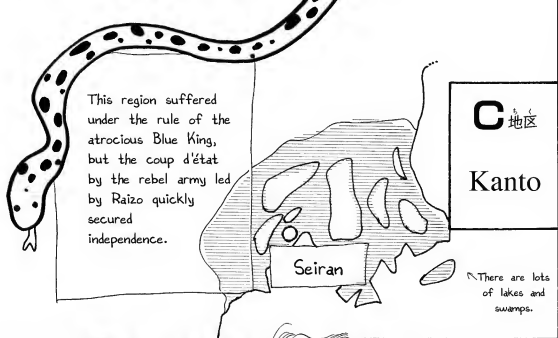
Former domain of the Black King

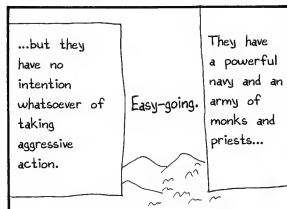
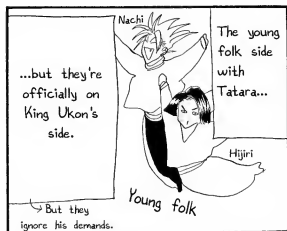
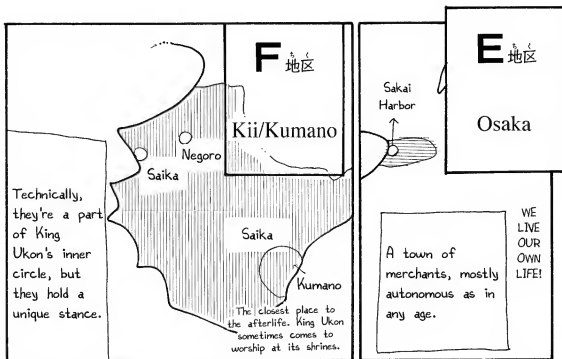
Was ruled by the Black King, the eldest son of King Ukon, but his people were exhausted by their endless war.

That's the official story. The real Black King drowned in Tenkyo lake.









Most of it is desert.
The land was deemed
useless, and remained
undeveloped until the Red
King arrived.

Especially the western end.

Now Tataru's
outpost. Always on
watch.

G 地区

Sanyo/Sanin

Awaji Island

Tataru's
birthplace,
but the
village is now
gone.

Suo City

Byakko Village

Sakaki is
overseeing
the aqueduct
construction.

I'M WORKING
SAKAKI. HARD.

It's making
steady
progress.

The
noncombatants
stay here.
It's a very
dynamic city.

Tataru
made this
their
base of
operations...

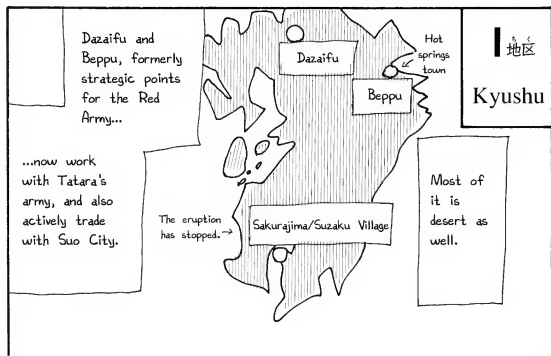
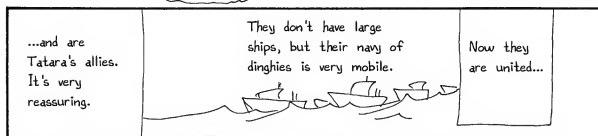
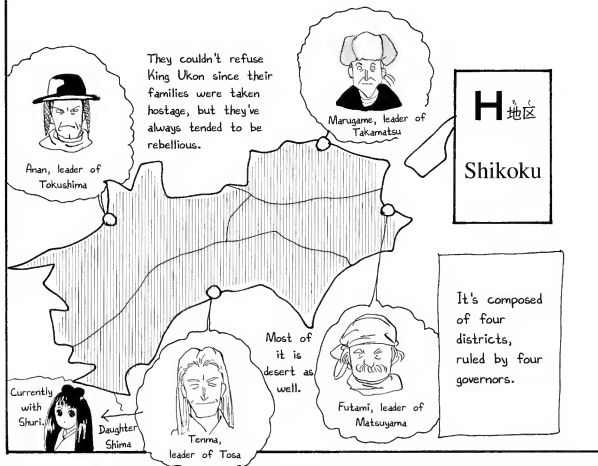
They're
focusing on
trade and
distribution.

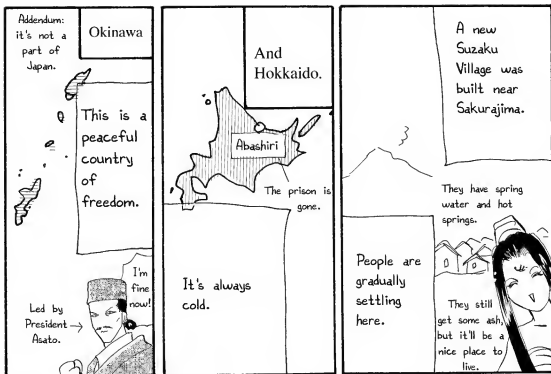
...and are creating a
community with the
townspeople.

GREAT!

Suo City, built
by the Red
King, was the
site of many
battles.

Now it's
being
rebuilt
again.





Please keep up with your support! ♥

Even if it may
be complicated
and hard
reading!

That's all!

I
HOPE...

SORRY THIS
WAS FULL
OF TEXT!

TARO FROM
KYOTO,
REPORTING!

THIS HAS
BEEN
HELPFUL IN
YOUR
ENJOYMENT
OF BASARA!

Was it?

Take care! See you next
time!